



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

X1

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/961,053	09/24/2001	Tetuyuki Tohyama	D-1178	5202
32628	7590	03/09/2005	EXAMINER	
HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER PATENT AGENTS SUITE 300, 1700 DIAGONAL RD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2848			SAFAIPOUR, HOUSHANG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	
DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/961,053	TOHYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Houshang Safaipour	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lockwood (U.S. Patent No. 4,743,974).

Regarding claim 1, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus having a reading mode for reading an image on a still document and a reading mode for reading an image on a moving document, comprising; a first reading station for reading an image of a still document, a second reading station situated adjacent to the first reading station for reading an image on one surface of a moving document, a third reading station situated adjacent to the second reading station at a side opposite to the second reading station for reading an image on the other surface of the moving document, first reading means arranged to move for reading the image of the still document at the first reading station and to be disposed immovably for reading the image on the one surface of the moving document at the second reading station, second reading means for reading the image on the other surface of the document moving at the third reading station situated at a side opposite to the second reading means, a supply tray to stack the document

located above the first reading station, a transport path to guide the document on the supply tray to the second reading station and the third reading station, and a discharge tray to store the document read at the second reading section and the third reading station (figs 1,2 & 4, col. 4, line 5 through col. 7, line 11).

Regarding claim 2, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first reading means and said second reading means are arranged to sandwich the transport path (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 3, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first reading means is immovably located in a position at least partly overlapping the second reading means in a vertical direction to read the document passing through the second reading means (fig. 2, scanning element 32).

Regarding claim 6, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising supply means for supplying the document on the supply tray to the second reading station, discharge means for discharging the document passing through the second reading station and the third reading station to the discharge tray, said transport path extending in a same direction as a supply direction of the document supplied by the supply means and a discharge direction discharged by the discharge means (fig. 1, supply tray 154 & output tray 102).

Regarding claim 7, arguments analogous to those presented for claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 are applicable to claim 7.

Regarding claim 8, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said first contact glass, said second contact glass and said second guide means are arranged linearly in a horizontal direction (fig. 4, platen glass 92 and 112).

Regarding claim 9, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first contact glass, said second contact glass and said second guide means are arranged such that document guide surfaces thereof have same heights (fig. 4).

Regarding claim 10, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second platen glass and said second guide means form a continuous flat document guide (fig. 4).

Regarding claim 11, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second platen glass and said contact glass are formed in positions such that the document is simultaneously read by the first reading means and the second reading means (fig. 4)

Regarding claim 12, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first guide means and said contact glass are formed integrally as one unit, and said image reading apparatus further comprising supporting means for swingingly supporting said first guide means and said contact glass (figs. 2 & 4).

Regarding claim 15, Lockwood discloses an image reading apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said second reading means is a contact image reading unit having a light source for illuminating the document, a SELFOC lens for collecting light and an image sensor having a

sensor array for converting the light collected in the lens by the sensor array into electrical signals (fig. 2, scanning element 32).

Regarding claim 16, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 6 are applicable to claim 6.

Regarding claims 17-19, arguments analogous to those presented for claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 are applicable to claims 17-19.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockwood (U.S. Patent No. 4,743,974) and further in view of Harada Michiya (JP Publication No. 11-032164).

Regarding claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 Lockwood does not explicitly disclose a second carriage having a mirror to guide light from the document to the lens and the image sensor. Harada Michiya discloses such an image reader (drawing 1, carriage 14). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lockwood's device to include the second carriage to reduce the optical system.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipour whose telephone number is (703)306-4037. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 6:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles, Sr. can be reached on (703)305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Houshang Safaipour
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622
March 3, 2005


EDWARD L COLES, SR.
SUPERVISOR
TDC